

familiar with all the elements of the amendment, but I am familiar with the effort on the 7.2 million. I would rise in support of that. What Senator Lynch is trying to do is recognize, I think, the impacts of LB 525, which Senator Warner and the Appropriations Committee has put forward. The combination of that bill, along with LB 187 and the way it's now structured, will maximize federal funds. One of the things that we have to understand here, and I'll just run through it real quickly, is we are dealing with different populations. LB 525 puts \$4.8 million of state money in, which brings in another \$7.2 million in federal money because it's under the Medicaid program, and that covers individuals that qualify for Medicaid. Above that group, but below the poverty level, are the indigent. Those are the people Senator Lynch is trying to address their medical needs through LB 187, and in that area we don't have a federal program. So there is no federal monies to be maximized or leveraged or matched. And so every dollar we put in is the only dollar we'll be able to get because the federal government has yet to address the indigent care problem. So if we want to get money into the health care providers of the state to help with low income assistance, the sort of combination of directions that Senator Lynch and the Appropriations Committee is taking will maximize federal dollars and still attempt to address the problems of the indigent. So, you know, another example of that, just to give you another case history, was when we were looking at a high risk pregnancy program. Senator Vard Johnson and I passed a bill twice that had been vetoed twice, and then the federal government said, we are going to have a high risk pregnancy Medicaid option. So last year we came in and adopted that option. For every dollar we put in, we got \$1.50 additional money, federal money, so we were able to get more bang for the buck than we put into that program. There was another bill we have pending on Final Reading, LB 354, that would likewise try and maximize that federal money. So all I'm saying is every time we can to help the low income with their health care needs, trying to utilize our dollars to maximize federal dollars is the best way to help those people. And I think Senator Lynch is recognizing that with this amendment and, as a result, I would support it.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Ashford, on the motion to return. Thank you. Senator Warner, followed by Senator Moore.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, as I understand what is proposed and the combination of the two